

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS SCAG SPOTLIGHT



Legislation and Policy Affecting Our Region

July 2012

RC Report

Highlights from the Regional Council Meeting

JULY 5, 2012



pictured from left to right: Hasan Ikhrata (Executive Director, SCAG), Paul Audley (President of Film L.A.), Amy Lemisch (Director of the California Film Commission), Bill Allen (President & CEO of LAEDC), Glen Becerra (President, SCAG)

ACTION – Model Filming Ordinance Supported

The Regional Council voted to encourage cities and counties in Southern California to adopt the Model Filming Ordinance. Amy Lemisch, Director of the California Film Commission gave a presentation on the ordinance. The motion picture and video industry is a major source of revenue and employment, generating billions of dollars annually in wages and salaries. The industry spends \$30 billion per year, pays \$1.5 billion in taxes and supports over 140,000 direct jobs.

Ms. Lemisch noted that California's dominance in film production is eroding. Over 40 U.S. states are offering lucrative filming incentives. California is at risk of losing its signature industry and a significant source of tax revenue. The loss of 10 feature films to other states results in a \$106 million reduction in state tax revenues.

The Model Film Ordinance serves as a framework to local municipalities in creating uniformity while streamlining the film permitting process, making Southern California more competitive. The cost for one day of location filming runs between \$100,000-\$250,000, with that money being spent on things like gas, lumber, carpenters, electricians, hotels, rental cars, restaurants and dry cleaners, all-the-while supporting nearly 3,000 small businesses. Encouraging local film production is an economic development tool that can provide jobs for local residents, generate local revenue and bolster local businesses. Adopting film friendly ordinances will encourage this money to be spent in the cities and counties of Southern California and supports Phase II of SCAG's Southern California Economic Recovery & Job Creation Strategy.

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From the Executive Director

Additional News for the Month

Around the Region

Throughout the month of June, Board Officers, Executive Staff and I traveled across the region participating in a number of annual sub-regional general assemblies and other year-end activities. First, on Thursday, June 7th, the SCAG delegation and I attended the VCOG Annual Dinner and heard from Timm Herdt, the State Bureau Chief for the Ventura County Star. On Thursday, June 14th, SANBAG hosted its 2nd Annual General Assembly, where I participated on an economic-focused panel while presenting the major trends of the SCAG 2012-2035 Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy (RTP/SCS). The following Thursday, June 21st, the SCAG delegation and I attended the 21st Annual WRCOG General Assembly which had a keynote address from General Colin Powell (ret.). Finally, on June 25th, the SCAG delegation and I attended the CVAG General Assembly and were treated to a video presentation of the year's sub-regional accomplishments in the Coachella Valley. Congratulations to all the organizations for successful events and accomplishments.

Recognition and Awards

On June 13, 2012, Immediate Past President Pam O'Connor and I were honored by Move LA at their annual event for the work of the Regional Council on the 2012-2035 Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy (RTP/SCS).

Additionally, on June 28th, the American Society for Public Administration (ASPA) Greater Los Angeles Chapter presented me with the Dykstra Award for Excellence in Government. I would like to thank Move LA and ASPA for the recognition and the Regional Council for their leadership.

Federal Transportation Improvement Program

On July 5, 2012, the Transportation Committee (TC) released the Draft 2013 Federal Transportation Improvement Program (FTIP) for a 30-day public review and comment period. The FTIP is a multi-modal list of capital improvement projects to be implemented over a six (6) year period. Upon completion of the public review and response to public comments, SCAG staff will report back to the TC at the September 6, 2012 meeting on any comments received.

EVENTS

JULY

12th & 13th

Public Hearing: Appeals of Draft RHNA

19th & 26th

Public Hearing: Draft 2013 FTIP

AUGUST

SCAG Regional Council & Policy Committees will be dark in August.